Open Source Portal Evaluation

CDR Scott Starsman

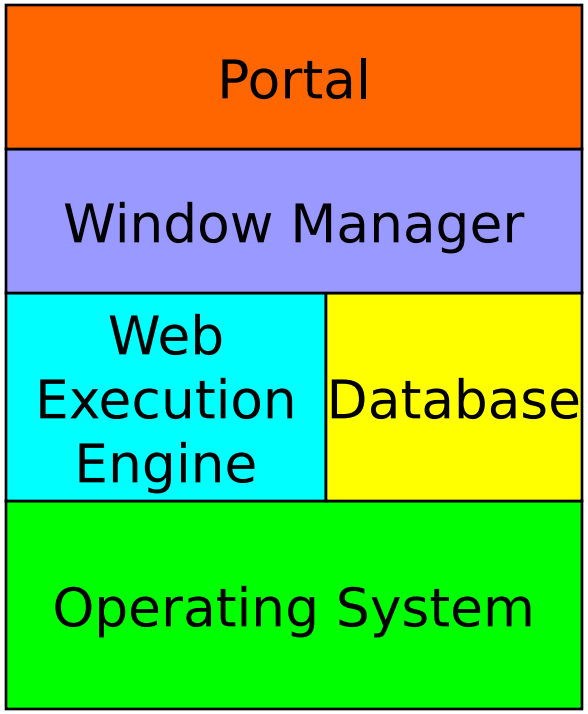
Vision

- Open Source
  - Vendor *independence*
  - Product *dependence*
- Eliminate need for GOTS abstraction layer
- Cost/security roughly a wash

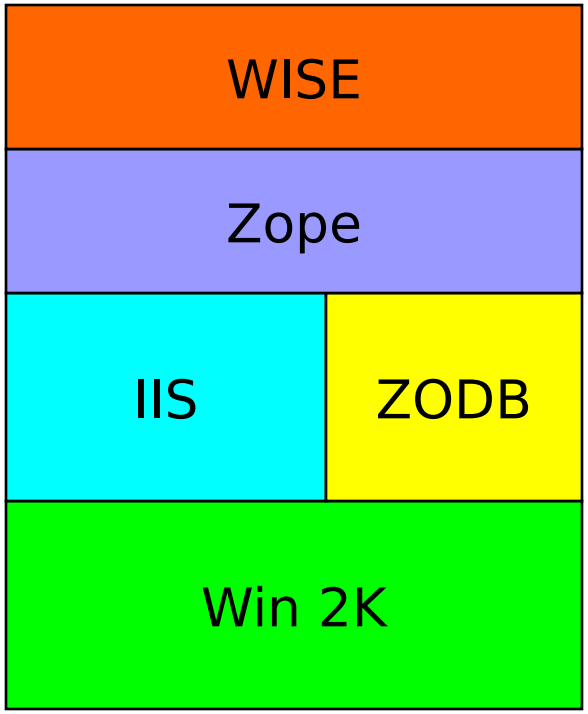
Goals

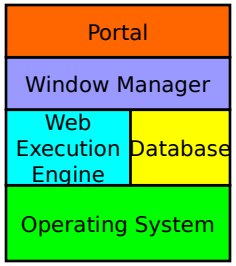
- Develop an Open Source Portal that
  - Demonstrates open source software can match existing closed source functionality
  - Demonstrates flexibility of open source in meeting user requirements via software modifications
  - Be available to host production environment in 2003 after stability and scalability testing.
  - Encourages Navy-wide institutional competence

Basic Architecture



Options – WISE





Options - WISE

- LT Stafford and MITRE Langley reps met with Johan Goossens of SACLANT

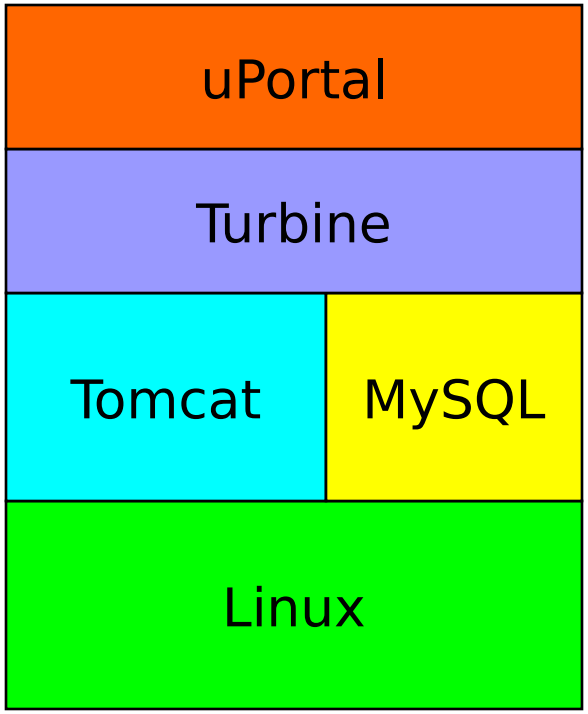
Pros

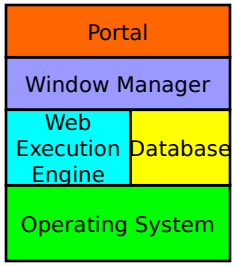
- Good knowledge management capability
- Adopted by 60+ NATO/European military organizations
- Many useful preexisting services
- Supports iFrames
- SURFLANT is experimenting (CAPT Ginnow)

Cons

- Minimal source code release for CM/politics
- Minimal configuration by user
- Scalability concerns
- Knowledge management structure difficult to shape to enterprise solution
- Code foundation is not mainstream

Options - uPortal





Options - uPortal

- LT Stafford, Anh Ta, and Joel Brown (BAH) met with Carl Jacobsen of the University of Delaware

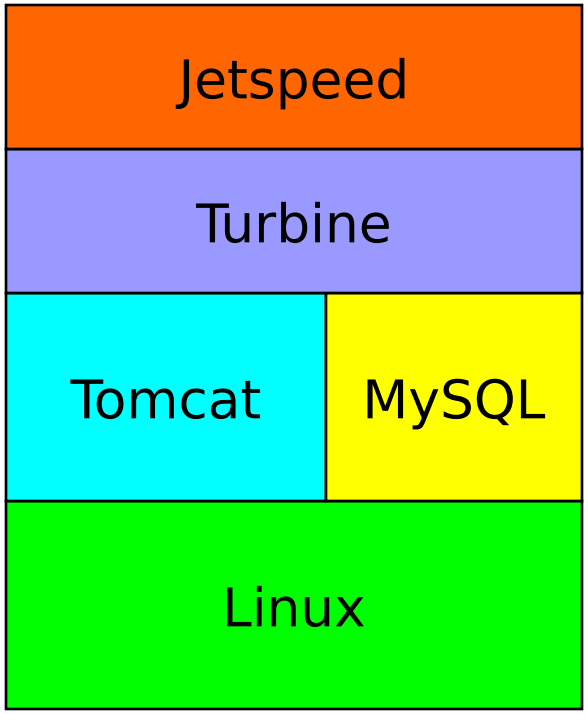
Pros

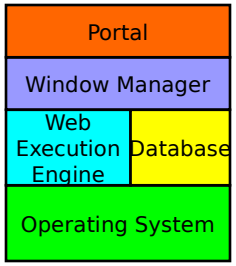
- Almost 40 campuses using the product (NPS is examining), some have 20,000+ users; Partially grant funded. Avoids commercial lock-in and sets standard for education vendors.
- "Community" Source Development gives disciplined management
- Massachusetts State government looking at using; alignment seen between education and government
- Uses iFrames
- Looking at WSRP/JSR168 compatibility
- Significant rise in adoption in past year (new versions solve initial adopter difficulties)

Cons

- Few prebuilt services available
- Harder to integrate changes into open source code base
- Less opportunity for user contribution

Options - Jetspeed





Options - Jetspeed

- LT Stafford talked to Paul Tecca of Perceptive Informatics along with 3 lead open source programmers and FNMOC developers

Pros

- Primarily used for internal/intranet applications
- Matches IBM/BEA Application Server Functionality at much lower cost
- "Pleasantly surprised by stability"
- Flexible enough to add strict auditing for medical records management
- Easy to integrate changes into open source code base
- Cutting edge WSRP/JSR168 compatibility
- Greatly improved stability since beginning of year
- Uses iFrames

Cons

- Few prebuilt services
- Few public sites using the software

Themes – Open Source SSO

- WEBISO is a central organization coordinating academic single sign-on products
- Utilizes academic expertise; designed for heterogeneous, disparate environments.
- Both University of Washington and Yale have heavily used and highly tested products
- uPortal integrates both products with ease
- We should investigate in comparison with Oblix; neglected in bakeoff since no sales infrastructure
- FNMOC developing similar product for PMW161

Themes – Access to Code

- Access to code helps programmers
  - Determines where bugs are; Helps with poor documentation
  - Essential for smart integration of “deep legacy” apps
- Allows some things that are impossible otherwise
  - No commercial product met federal guidelines for medical record security
  - DoD security requirements have similar customization needs

Themes - Institutional Competence

- What is it?
  - **An organization's ability to:**
    - translate operational requirements into technical specifications,
    - execute the specifications with an appropriate mix of government and contractor support, and
    - to provide cost-effective vendor-neutral support over the life of the product.
  - **An organization-wide level of technical comfort that fosters innovation, rapid acceptance, and an overall understanding of technology as a warfighting enabler.**
- How does portal development build Institutional Competence?
  - Direct Government involvement with portal technical issues and development
  - Open access to data and web services allows warfighter innovators to stitch together new web components that meet their needs

Future

- Jetspeed pilot implementation authorized.
  - Leverage FNMOC efforts
  - Early pathway to WSRP
  - More flexible source tree for Navy modifications
- uPortal is a close second
  - Larger user base
  - Integration with open source SSO
  - Professional nature of development effort